

# PHENIX.

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BY JULIAN A. SELBY.

COLUMBIA, S. C., FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 19, 1866.

VOLUME I—NO. 250

## THE PHŒNIX.

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The National Intelligencer has been The National Intelligencer has been furnished with the following letter, written by Raphael Semmes, late Admiral in the Confederate Navy, the commander of the rebel cruiser Alabama, and who is now awaiting trial at Washington:

Mobile, Ala., Aug. 12, 1865.

My Dear Brother: The cessation of the war leaves me at liberty to reof the war leaves me at liberty to re-new my correspondence with you, without subjecting you to suspicion and annoyance; and I need not say to you how grateful to the yearnings of heart is this long suspended pri-vilege. You have been frequently in my thoughts during our unfortunate struggle, and I have often felt made. my thoughts during our unfortunate struggle, and I have often felt much solicitude on your account, lest a part of the odium and ill-will which a zealous performance of my duty has called down upon my head from a "mad nation," should attach to you and your family, and operate to your injury. Indeed, I have no doubt but that the prejudice against me was the secret of the barbarous and malignant persecution of your son, of which I heard only a few days since from my wife's friend and relation, Mrs. Judge Spencer, of Cincinnati. I have never inquired as to your opinions and coninquired as to your opinions and conduct during the war, being content to leave you the same liberty of choice and action that I claimed for myself. and action that I claimed for myself. I knew that whatever you did, you would do like a man of honor, and I rested satisfied. Besides, you had been for some time retired from active life by your want of health. As for myself, I have nothing to regret, save only the loss of our independence. My conscience, which is the only earthly tribunal of which a good man should be afraid, bears mewitness of the uprightness of my intention in choosing my course when, with many regrets, I severed my connection with the old Government and hastened to the defence of my home and section; and now, upon home and section; and now, upon reviewing the whole of my subsequent career, I can see no act with which I have to reproach myself as unbecoming a man of honor and a gentleman. I approved the secession movement of the Southern States, though I had no agency in it. I thought that a separation of those two sections of our Republic, which had been engaged in deadly moral conflict for thirty years, would ulti-mately result to the great advantage of them both. The world was wide enough for them to live apart, and peace, I thought, would be the fruit of their mutual independence of each other. Although I cared very little about the institution of slavery, I thought that the subordinate position of the inferior race was its proper position. I believed that the doc-trine of States rights was the only doctrine which would save our republic from the fate of all other Republics that had gone before us in the history of the world. I believed this doctrine had been violated, and that it would never be sufficiently respected by the controlling masses of the Northern section to prevent them from defacing with sacrilegious hands our national bond of Union wheresoever its letter was meant to guard the peculiar rights of the South. Believing this, there was but one course which a faithful Southern

man could pursue, and maintain his self-respect. I pursued that course. When the alternative was presented to me of adhering to the allegiance

Raphael Semmes to his Brother, Sam-uel M. Semmes.

to my native State, or to the United States, I chose the former. Having chose ty side, I gave it zealous and ipport. I spent four years service, and only ceased to y side, I gave it zealons and apport. I spent four years service, and only ceased to my cause when it was no large from our friends and the public generally. HUFFMAN & PRICE, Corner of Main and Lumber streets, Jan 5 1mo\* Columbia, S. C.

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"For further particulars, address Rev. J. TAYLOR ZEALY, Dec 28 ‡ Principal, Monticello, S. C.

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ruary next.

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PROF. JNO. F. LANNEAU,
Oct 28 67

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